Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of aggregating data in an information management system, the method comprising:

receiving a query for a response to a search on a database;

loading data from the database into a memory if the data necessary to generate the response to the query is absent from the memory;

filtering a first block of the data based on the query to generate a list of results for the first block;

buffering at least one key figure corresponding to a result in the list of results of the first block, the buffering of the least one key figure based at least in part on the result being in the list of results;

buffering compressed values representing at least one dimension value corresponding to each key figure being one of the at least one key figures;

aggregating the compressed values representing the dimension values corresponding to the each key figure to generate an aggregate key;

aggregating key figures corresponding to the same aggregate key to generate one or more aggregate key figures;

storing the aggregate key figures and aggregate keys;

performing the filtering, buffering, and aggregating for a second block of the data;

merging aggregate key figures of the first and second blocks of the data; and

displaying the response to the search on a display device, wherein the response includes at least one aggregate key figure.

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the storing comprises the method further comprising

generating a hash key based on the aggregate key; and

storing in a hash table aggregate key figures corresponding to the hash key.

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein loading data from the database into a memory comprises compressing data according to a compression algorithm.

4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the compression algorithm is dictionary-based compression.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein loading data from the database comprises loading data into a plurality of memories.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein loading data from the database into a memory comprises organizing the data in the memory as columns of the database.

8. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein aggregating the compressed values representing the dimension values comprises concatenating the compressed values representing the dimension values.

9. (Currently Amended) An information management system, the system comprising:
    a database; and
    a computer system programmed to:
        load data from the database into a memory, wherein the data represents a table;
        filter a first block of the data based on a query, wherein filtering the data comprises generating a list of results for the first block;
        buffer at least one key figure corresponding to a result in the list of results of the first block, the buffering of the at least one key figure based at least in part on the result being in the list of results;
        buffer compressed values representing at least one dimension value corresponding to each key figure being one of the at keast one key figures;
        generate an aggregate key based on the compressed values representing the dimension values corresponding to the each key figure;

aggregate key figures with the same aggregate key to generate one or more aggregate key figures;

> store the aggregate key figures and aggregate keys;
>
> perform the filtering, buffering, and aggregating for a second block of the data;
>
> merging aggregate key figures of the first and second blocks fo the data; and
>
> display at least one aggregate key figure on a display device.

10. (Currently Amended) An information management system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the computer system to store comprises the computer system to is further programmed to:

> generate a hash key based on the aggregate key; and
>
> store in a hash table aggregate key figures corresponding to the hash key.

11. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the operation of loading data from the database into a memory comprises compressing data according to a compression algorithm.

12. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the compression algorithm is dictionary-based compression.

13. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the operation of loading data from the database comprises loading data into a plurality of memories.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the operation of loading data from the database into a memory comprises organizing the data in the memory as columns of the database.

16. (Currently Amended) An information management system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the operation of generating an aggregate key comprises concatenating the <u>compressed values representing the</u> dimension values.